

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR OPERATING A COMPUTER IN A SECURE MODE

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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for activating an encryption control device that is in communication with a computer for providing a secure computing environment for a user is provided.

10 The method initiates with providing a card for insertion into a card reader of the encryption control device. The card is configured to receive and pass data. Next, a biometric identifier is received from the user. The biometric identifier enables validation of the user as the authorized owner of the card. Then, a challenge/response protocol between the encryption control and the inserted card is run. The challenge/response
15 protocol establishes that the card and the encryption control device are compatible. Next, an encryption engine of the encryption control device is activated to create a secure computing environment if the user is validated as the authorized owner of the card and the challenge/response protocol is successfully executed.

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